

Historic, Archive Document

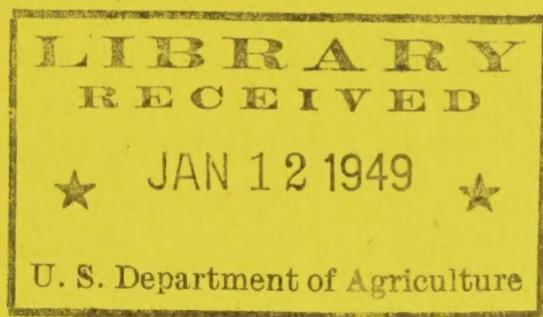
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

62.73

=1949=

No

Wild Flowers and Ferns



Wake Robin Farm
Home, Pennsylvania



To brighten a
shady nook in
the garden



Shipment by mail or express. Average transport charges estimated at 10% east of the Mississippi; 20%, west.

Prices net, f. o. b. Home, Pennsylvania.

Two planting seasons: Spring, about April 1 to June 1; Fall, about September 1 to December 1.

This Farm is on U. S. Route 119, 62 miles northeast of Pittsburgh; 9 miles north of Indiana, Pa.

Wake Robin Farm

James Loder Park, Manager

Home, Pennsylvania

Wild Flowers

(Ferns listed on Page 17)

Anemone, Rue (*Anemone thalictroides*). White or pink-tinged little flower, on slender stem 3 to 6 inches high. Blooms March to May. Prefers semi-shade, on banks and in open woods. Lingers near roots of the older trees. Attractive in masses and easily grown. One of the earliest spring flowers. **25c each; \$2.50 for 12.**

Arbutus, Trailing (*Epigaea repens*). "The loveliest flower of early spring." Creeps or "trails" in leafy mold and sandy soil of extreme acidity. Flowers in April and May, white or daintily pink, with frosty or waxy tinge and sweet perfume. New leaves appear in June, replacing the brown dead leaves of the previous year. **40c each; \$4.00 for 12.**

Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*). Bog plant with white, fragile flowers and dark green leaves, distinctly arrow-shaped. **35c each; \$3.50 for 12.**

Aster (Several species of the huge Aster genus of the Composite Family). A genuine fall flower, in prolific clusters, open and airy, white, mauve and purple, one to several feet high. Relieves the drabness of October, in open and sloping places. Accepts average soil conditions. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Baneberry, Red (*Actaea rubra*). About two feet high, with heads of white flowers, April - June, and cherry-red berries in late summer. Likes the company of Wild Ginger and Solomon's Seal, Wild Columbine and "Jacks." Prefers cool, shady corners, often in rock and shale. **40c each; \$4.00 for 12.**

Baneberry, White (*Actaea alba*). A close friend of the Red Baneberry, liking similar conditions and keeping the same company. The berry is white with one dark spot, and looks for all the world like the disembodied eye of a china doll. **40c each; \$4.00 for 12.**



Bellwort; Wood Merrybells (*Uvularia perfoliata*). The lily-like flower has delicate scent and hangs gracefully

WAKE ROBIN FARM

from the curving stem, suggesting the uvula or soft-palate. A real woodsy plant, growing 6 to 18 inches high. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Bergamont, Wild (*Monarda fistulosa*). The flower ranges in color from white to magenta-purple. Grows 3 to 4 feet. Has a most pleasing fragrance. Blooms June to September. Closely related to Oswego Tea (*Monarda didyma*), which it resembles. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Bishop's Cap; Mitrewort (*Mitella diphylla*). The white flowers on a slender raceme rise 8 to 16 inches high, each blossom a tiny cap. Blooms April and May. A gem for the shady rock garden. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). Grows 1 to 2 feet tall in open places and brilliant sunshine. A mid-summer flower, brightening dried fields and meadows. Deep golden blooms, gay and laughing, to color any open spot in the garden. Biennial. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Bleeding Heart, Wild (*Dicentra eximia*). Delicate foliage, with deep rose flowers, blooming May to August. This rare species, found on stony slopes, and growing a foot high, is splendid for the rock garden. Prefers moderately acid soil. Also called the Fringed Bleeding Heart. 45c each; \$4.50 for 12.

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). Low-growing perennial, 6 to 10 inches high. Fragile white flower, an inch or two wide, with a golden center. Blooms in April, followed by heart-shaped leaves which remain until autumn. If plucked, it exudes a blood-like juice from the root, which stains. Indians used this sap to decorate their faces. Elusive, tender, and altogether alluring is this ephemeral flower. Tolerates dry, light, neutral soil. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Bluebell; Harebell; Bluebells of Scotland (*Campanula rotundifolia*). Dainty but extremely hardy, withstanding flood and drought with equal persistence. Grows equally well in sandy soil, rocky cliffs and crevices, in field or forest, mountain or meadow, in places dry or moist, in sunshine or shadow. Persistent, satisfying, easily established. Produces bluebells from June to late autumn. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Bluebells, Virginia; Virginia Cowslip; Lungwort (*Mertensia virginica*). The rare beauty of Virginia Bluebells, we think, is in the clear, sky-blue coloring of the small trumpet-shaped flowers, on languid, smooth stems, appearing in early spring. Stems grow 1 to 2 feet high, and die away with the leaves in mid-summer. Grows readily in sunshine, better in partial shade, and prefers acid soil. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Bluet; Quaker Lady; Innocence; Eyebright (*Houstonia caerulea*). Forms dense tufts of light blue flowers, 3 to 5 inches high. Seeks open, grassy places, but grows most anywhere, carpeting fields, roadsides and woodland trails. Propagates by self-seeding and creeping rootstocks. The little clumps in a dish of water make original table decorations, after which adventure, they can be planted out again. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

HOME, PENNSYLVANIA

Boneset; Thoroughwort (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*). A bog plant, Boneset grows 2 to 4 feet high in swamp, marsh or pond, or in miniature garden tub or barrel pool. The name derives from the use of "boneset tea" against Southern Dengue or "break-bone" fever. Dried leaves are still kept in herb-closet, attic or woodshed to guard against colds. Perhaps the patient shudders himself to recovery when the noisome brew is poured down his throat. Seriously, though, it is a real medicine, and it is, after all, a rather nice wilding for the wetlands. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Bouncing Bet; Soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*). A sociable, domestic wild flower with an old-fashioned spicy scent, growing near people and animals, yards and roadsides. Flowers magenta, pink and white. Juice lathers and has been used for soap, whence the names "sapo" and "Soapwort." Came from England, where it was likened to the comeliness and "bounce" of a country maid. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Bunchberry; Dwarf Cornel (*Cornus canadensis*). Fastidious in choice of acid soil, cool, moist upland woods and the company of boon companions, like *Arbutus* and *Clintonia*. It hobnobs with its own *Cornus* family, especially the Flowering Dogwood. The pure white flowers form a carpet as the creeping roots spread. Remarkable for its scarlet berries in tight little clusters. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Buttercup, Swamp (*Ranunculus septentrionalis*). Deep yellow flower, about an inch wide, reaching 1 to 2 feet, in a group at the top of smooth, hollow stems. A real marsh or pool plant, which grows in sunlight if it must, and in any moist ground. Blooms May to August, and enjoys the company of Hellebore, Iris, Dog's Tooth Violet and Sweet White Violet. The Latin name means "little frog of the north." Pliny warned that eating it may cause you to laugh yourself silly, but he kindly suggested an antidote for such frivolity, of pepper and pineapple kernels dissolved in date wine. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Butterflyweed; Pleurisy Root (*Tuberosa asclepias*). Gorgeous, flaming orange flowers, this migrant from Holland is the handsomest of the Milkweed family. Grows 1 to 2 feet high, and best where it has plenty of room and sunlight. Indifferent to soil, easily established, grows in dry, poor ground. Self-seeding, and the fleshy brittle root can be propagated by division. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Calamus; Sweet Flag (*Acorus calamus*). Sword-like leaves of this bog plant are atmospheric. The flowering spike is hobnailed with tiny blossoms in June and July. Well known to many a boy is the pungent, pleasant flavor. The root is medicinal, dried or candied, and rated of old as a tonic for feeble digestion and dyspepsia. Used as part of incense by Egyptians, long before King Tutankhamen, and by the peoples of Israel, Babylon, and Greece. Sold in the markets of Tyre (Ezekiel); Solomon sang of "spikenard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon;" and Moses prepared "holy ointment of pure myrrh, sweet cinnamon, cassia, olive oil and sweet

WAKE ROBIN FARM

calamus." It grows 1 to 3 feet high; its light shiny green sets off the edges of brooks and pools, and will camouflage the ugliest domestic ditch. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Calla, Wild; Water Arum (*Calla palustris*). From the cold slime bogs of the Cape of Good Hope comes this immigrant to American garden pools. Its very name, "palustris," points to its swampy taste. Its root is a bright green stick which adds yearly shoots to one end and dies off at the other, restless and migrant, in an inching sort of way. Grows 5 to 10 inches above marsh level, upright and sturdy, with white flowers in June and bright red berries in August. Easily grown by simply pressing into the mud of any boggy nook. Arum Family, cousin of Calamus. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Canada Mayflower; Wild Lily of the Valley (*Maianthemum canadense*). A low woodland plant with a small fuzzy head of white flowers in May and June, followed by ruby-red berries in the fall. Transplants grow into large masses, with creeping tangled roots, forming close, matted ground cover. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*). Native to moist and boggy soil, or to deep wet woods, this brightest of scarlet flowers blazes from July to September, when color is scarce, in almost any garden. The astounding red draws humming birds, the only agency able to cross-fertilize. Grows 2 to 4 feet high in any damp place. Subject to freezing in winter unless covered with several inches of leaves, which are drawn back in spring and left for mulch. Protection is important; extinction is imminent; sparse planting is more effective than massing. Its name was suggested by the color of a Cardinal's robe. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Cat Tail (*Typha latifolia*). Grows lustily in bogs and wherever it finds constant water. Spreads happily and tenaciously by root extension, taking sure possession of its corner. Inventive children of the past have used its stem for arrows and its plumes for torches. No snob, it sways and nods in sentinel rows, as often as not, down by the railroad tracks. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Cinquefoil; Five Finger (*Potentilla canadensis*). For the barren bank; for sandy, stony bald spots in the yard, garden, meadow, field or roadside, this weaving, creeping ground cover is an answer to the old garden problem of hiding scars and blotches. It gathers beauty from poverty. The five-fingered foliage (French "cinque feuilles" means five leaves) is decorative in itself; the deep yellow flowers, no bigger than a fingernail, add perfection to beauty all through spring and summer (April to August). Its liking for dry soil is an added relief to the garden worker. Not to be confused with Wild Strawberry, a common error. Both belong to the Rose Family, of course, but Cinquefoil is of the *Potentilla* genus; Wild Strawberry is *Fragaria*, with only 3 leaflets or fingers. Less technical distinction: you can eat the strawberries. Spreads by runners; fertilized by flies, grows anywhere. **25c each; \$2.50 for 12.**

HOME, PENNSYLVANIA

Clintonia (*Clintonia borealis*). Slender flower stalks 7 inches long grow out from shorter oval oblong leaves of shiny green. The drooping lily blossoms at the top are creamy yellow in May, ripening into berries of pure metallic blue in August. Likes cool, damp woods; insists upon acid soil; seeks company of the Bunchberry; wants plenty of leaf mold to hold moisture; and spreads by rooted runners which replace the mother plant. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Club Moss, Shining (*Lycopodium lucidulum*). These little 4 to 8 inch bristly plants were once 100-foot trees, buried under high pressure in heaving earth wrinkles to form the abundant bituminous coal of this Allegheny Mountain region, and under terrific pressure eastward to form the nearly pure carbon of anthracite. A primitive form, even to the tyro, as the dark green stem is readily seen to be merely an elongation of the brown rootstalk or base, bent to run a little way underground. Dwells in cool, damp, hemlock woods. Redolent of long ago, this Club Moss and its related companions, Ground Cedar and Ground Pine, stir the imagination. This Family Lycopodium ("wolf's foot") is allied to ferns. The spores yield flashlight powder of early photography and when dry are highly inflammable. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.



Columbine, Wild (*Aquilegia canadensis*). Hardy and brilliant rockery flower, growing 10 to 20 inches high. Blossoms, an inch long, appear in May, in yellow and bright red. Named for the dove ("columba"), the flower resembles both the claws and the graceful droop of a drinking pigeon. Grows in average soil and tolerates summer drouth. Lives in careless grace on fearful perches and loses charm on plucking. Definitely hardy, encouraging to beginners. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Crinkleroot; Two-Leaved Toothwort (*Dentaria diphylla*). The little white flowers have a loose, careless manner. They appear in a terminal cluster, blooming in May, or somewhat earlier. The root is crinkled and both root and leaves are toothed. Found growing contentedly with Hepaticas and Bloodroot. The leaves, opposite in pairs, distinguish this toothwort from the three-leaf or cut-leaf Pepper Root, a like relative in the *Dentaria* genus of the numerous Mustard Family. Increases by creeping roots in rich, moist ground. The edible root has a pleasant watercress flavor. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*). Little white pantlets bobbing on a string. A patch of Dutchman's Breeches in bloom is a mass of white, suggests lingerie laundry for a whole miniature city of little men. Reaching 8 inches above ground, in moist, shady crevices and folds of woodland, the flowers appear in pairs during April and May. Cross-fertilized by long-

WAKE ROBIN FARM

tongued visitors, bumblebees, Cabbage and Monarch butterflies and beelike flies of the tribe Bombylius. Its feathery foliage resembles that of the Maidenhair Fern, and the two are boon companions. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Firepink; Catchfly (*Silene virginica*). For a dash of mid-summer crimson in the garden, June to August, when wild flower bloom is scarce. Firepink needs no watering; moreover, it does not tolerate soggy wetness. Grows in open sunlight or partial shade; grows sturdily on barren shaly banks. **40c each; \$4.00 for 12.**

Foam Flower; False Mitrewort (*Tiarella cordifolia*). Good ground cover, spreading rapidly by runners, with heart-shaped leaves, like the mountain maple, which remain all winter. Distinguished from its close and similar relative, the Bishop's Cap, mainly by a larger and fuzzier leaf. The fluffy, feathery white flower-heads appear in May and June, 6 to 10 inches high. Thrives in moist, shady and rocky woods, and clammers happily over piles of stone. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Gentian, Closed; Bottle Gentian (*Gentiana Andrewsii*). Bottle-shaped buds in a cluster at the top of a sturdy stalk, intensely blue to purple. Bluer than blue, ultramarine, it flowers in fall, stimulated by early frost, September into October. The green leaves turn bronze with the cold; the transcendent blue of the bottle buds persists long after most of the wildlings have gone. This perennial grows 1 to 2 feet high in cool, moist, shady places. A small start can be increased by root division. **40c each; \$4.00 for 12.**

Geranium, Wild; Wild Cranesbill (*Geranium maculatum*). Flowers bloom all summer, from May to August. One to two feet high. Found in the light shade of open woods. Grows almost anywhere. Easily transplanted. Leaves mottled (maculated), spreading airily like a knee-high tree. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Gill-over-the-Ground; Ground Ivy (*Nepeta hederacea*). Creeper, with rooting stems, this aromatic cousin of Catnip stays green in winter. Little blossoms, sprinkled among a wealth of stubby round leaves, persists from spring to fall. A fast growing ground cover, it accepts the damp or dry, town life and window boxes. A medicine, too, which "helpeth weake and akeing backs," but only if boiled with the mutton of its native England. **25c each; \$2.50 for 12.**

Ginger, Wild (*Asarum canadense*). The red-brown of the Ginger flower comes in April and May. It buds off the hairy leaf stalk so close to the ground that it is hidden by the glistening dark-green, elephant ear foliage and lies close to the leaf mold which it resembles in color for protection. 4 to 6 inches high, reclining stems. An oddity in flowers, appealingly elusive. Spicy, gingery smell. Rich, moist ground. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Greek Valerian (*Polemonium reptans*). Light blue flowers, nodding in several clusters at the top of a slender stem, with alternate tufts of small leaves, about a foot high. Blooms in April and May. Grows in the sun,

HOME, PENNSYLVANIA

but light shade is better. Seeks the lower spots where moisture may linger. 40c each; \$4.00 for 12.

Ground Cedar (*Lycopodium complanatum*). A conspicuous evergreen club moss, dwarfed residue from prehistoric bigness. It is used for interior decoration in winter, but is better left where it grows, on open or shady hillsides, and in dry, piny woods. Additional description under "Club Moss," as it belongs to the same *Lycopodium* Family. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Ground Pine (*Lycopodium obscurum*). This member of the Club Moss Family is like a miniature evergreen tree, or, more precisely it is dwarf pine. It is another small descendant of early "giants in the earth." Further description under "Club Moss." 40c each; \$4.00 for 12.

Hawkweed; Rattlesnake Weed; Poor Robin's Plaintain (*Hieracium venosum*). For sheer, startling, varied loveliness, this member of the Hawkweed group of the Composite Family is unsurpassed. Purple-veined light-green leaves close to ground stop you in your tracks. The insouciant grace of the slender, forking, clustered stems, topped with flowers like dandelions, blooming in June, holds your interest again and again. Once thought a specific for snake bite, as if the rattlesnake leaves were the authority! Serene and undemanding, it grows in poor soil, dry woods and thickets, open sandy places. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

Hepatica, Acute-Lobed (*Hepatica acutiloba*). A variant hepatica which has a distinctly pointed leaf lobe. Otherwise very similar to its close relative, the Round-Lobed Hepatica, into which form it often blends. Rather scarce around these parts, changing in numbers from year to year, with puzzling, and exciting, leaf forms, intermediate between acute and round. Acid soil required; partial shade desirable. Blooms in April. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

Hepatica, Round Lobed; Liverwort; Liver Leaf (*Hepatica triloba*). The earliest flower of spring, appearing before the new growth of leaves, in many shades of blue from near-white to dark. The leaves of the previous year persist through winter, olive green, resembling the lobes of the liver. Good for rockeries, indoor pots and window boxes. Appears early, even in March, and before the snow is gone, to satisfy the eager, turgid gardener. Blooms through May. Intensely acid soil is indicated. Tiny, fuzzy and delicate looking, they are tougher than you think. Once thought to be a liver medicine because of the leaf, as if it were a label on a bottle! 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Iris, Wild Blue; Larger Blue Flag; Fleur de Lis (*Iris versicolor*). Bog plant by choice, standing in water, but happily for gardeners, adapts readily to drier ground. Height here is 20 to 30 inches. Purple flowers of regal beauty, this Wild Iris was chosen by Louis VII of France as the royal emblem, from which comes the name "Flower of Louis" (contracted in French to Fleur de Lis). Spreads by the root, rather rapidly, soon yielding desirable massed effect, from a modest beginning. Blooms all through June, sun or shade. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

WAKE ROBIN FARM

Jack-in-the-Pulpit; Indian Turnip (*Arisaema triphyllum*). Green flower! Pale green if too exposed, the hood of the pulpit has white, brown and purple stripes in moist shade. Jack is the pollen rod within, under his canopy, and resting on the flower base, which becomes the tight clump of bright red berries in the fall. The berries germinate readily, taking several years to mature. Easy to establish in wet soil and shade. The bulb is bitter and poisonous to eat until boiled, when it is allegedly nutritious. Indians ate bulb and berries. Bulb has been cooked in Ireland. Jacks are fertilized by little gnats. Plant with ferns for best display. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Joe Pye Weed; Trumpet Weed; Queen of the Meadow (*Eupatorium purpureum*). For bog borders and meadow massing, 3 to 7 feet tall, full-leaved in rich deep green, topped with spreading, dense, flower clusters, soft lavender ("crushed raspberry") in color. Herald of autumn, it connects summer and fall, blooming July to September. Easily grown in any low damp ground. Named for Joe Pye, an Indian who used it to cure typhus fever. The little tubular blossoms are considered trumpet-shaped. A good natured, lumbering giant, it towers over most wild flora and is best arranged with tallish companions, such as boneset, helenium, sunflowers and other wet-soil plants. 40c each; \$4.00 for 12.

Lady's Slipper, Pink; Moccasin Flower (*Cypripedium acaule*). The pink shoe of this Orchid rises about a foot on a slender stem, from two broad base leaves, in May and June. Found in well drained soil, as on hummocks and knolls, in moderate shade, near boulders and mosses. With some acidity in the soil, it grows vigorously in crumbling logs, deep woods, stony soil or tiny rock ledges. It has a way of hiding in underbrush. The Indian moccasin shape of the flower pouch is uncommonly well named. Transplants need watering until established, with good drainage. 40c each; \$4.00 for 12.

Lady's Slipper, Showy (*Cypripedium spectabile*; *C. regina*; *C. hirsutum*). Some call it Queen of the Orchids; others, the most gorgeous of wild flowers; to us, each Slipper is royal in its way. The flower is pure frosty white, stained with magenta crimson. The name "regina" refers to queenliness; the name "hirsutum" to the downy or bearded stem. Blooms about a foot high, with stately grace in shadowy nooks having constant moisture. It grows well in sun or shade, and drowns in boggy wetness. 40c each; \$4.00 for 12.

Lady's Slipper, Yellow (*Cypripedium pubescens*). The yellow flower, streaked with madder purple, blooms in May and June, 12 to 15 inches high. It likes rich acid soil, with ample moisture, on shaded, stony slopes. If there is a maple, beech or butternut tree on the place, the Yellow Slipper will like its fallen leaves for mulch. It prefers a lot of other fussy things, but it is really a tough little plant which does quite well in ordinary gardens. The crisp, yellow shoe, with its twisted, untied laces has compelling color, with an alert, startled manner when surprised. 40c each; \$4.00 for 12.

HOME, PENNSYLVANIA

Lily, Turkscap (*Lilium superbum*). Tall decorative and easily grown, the American Turkscap Lily is closely allied to a common lily of Palestine. The height, 5 to 7 feet, is important in garden planning. Orange red flowers, purple spotted, help to fill in the midsummer slack season, July and August. A true "lily of the field," it calls for open, moist ground and yields to cultivation. Plant 6 to 8 inches deep. 65c each; \$6.50 for 12.

Lobelia, Great; Large Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia syphilitica*). Rich blue flowers in lavish amount on a straight spike stem, 1 to 3 feet high, preferring low moist ground. Useful plant, establishing readily and blooming from July to September. Named after a Belgian herb authority, M. de l'Obel. Culture is simple, color fills in late summer slack, and combination with Cardinal Flower is effective. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Marsh Marigold; "Mary-bud" (*Caltha Palustris*). Once known as the golden flower of the meres or marshes of old England, or simply as "Marsh Gold" this brilliant bog flower stands out in low wet places, and adapts nicely to the small garden pool, or even near the rainspout. Sometimes confused with the cowslip, something like the buttercup, the "golden eyes of the winking Mary-buds" (Mere-buds) can be wetly potted for the house or sick room. The stocky, hollow stems are succulent, sturdy, the leaves edible and more palatable than spinach. The flowers burst early, April and May, from 6 to 15 inches high, in sun or shade. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.



May Apple; Mandrake; Umbrella Leaf; Wild Lemon (*Podophyllum peltatum*). Lushly spreading by its roots, the umbrella leaves form a dense, knee-high magic carpet, or elevated ground cover. Waxy white flowers hang under the leaves. The fruit, ripening in late summer, is a large, fleshy, lemon-shaped berry, or "apple," yellow when ripe. Flower has wild fruity smell, and fragile beauty; the fruit is reputedly edible when ripe, but insipid; the leaves are poison if eaten, and the root is a violent purgative. The plant is usefully tenacious and spreading, soon forming a sort of miniature tropical forest. 25c each; \$2.50 for 12.

WAKE ROBIN FARM

Meadow Rue, Tall (*Thalictrum polygamum*). Starry, plumy, misty clusters of white flowers, borne on slender branches, 3 to 5 feet high, above its lesser companions of the wet meadows and slow winding streams. Grows in any soil and exposure with stately dignity. An aristocrat of cool, chaste dignity and simplicity. Combines well with Oswego Tea, in casual planting along a meadow path. Bees, moths and little butterflies cross-fertilize this Meadow Rue, adding a fluttery quality to the feathery flowers. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Monkey Flower; Allegheny Monkey Flower (*Mimulus ringens*). Named for the ape or "little buffoon," from its grinning blossoms, which appear in ones and twos from July to September, in clear and purple blue. Grows best in wet meadows, on banks and islands of creeks, and wants similar conditions in the garden, meaning constantly wet places. Avoids standing in water; seeks a hummock from which to draw continuous moisture. Careful planting indicated. Height from 1 to 3 feet. A good neighbor of its cousin the Turtle Head. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

Oswego Tea; Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*). Vivid red, seeks moist, shady places, where it can show off against green. The Indians called it "flaming flower" and made a potable infusion from the blossoms. Draws butterflies and bumblebees. Fragrant; 3 to 4 feet tall; hardy; spreads eagerly from roots; grows best in moist ground, along stream banks and wood borders. Fading August is cheered by the scarlet flowers which bloom from July to September. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

Partridgeberry; Twinberry (*Mitchella repens*). Evergreen, creeping vine, with small fragrant blooms in pairs, or "twins." Forms a matted carpet of glossy green the year around. Flowers are creamy white within, pink without, and appear in June. Bright red berries come in autumn and feed the hungry winter birds. Easy to start; little care needed; grows best in rich wet woods, but also seems to carry on well enough in dry and barren soil, on the acid side. Can be potted or dished for the house in winter, and planted out entire in the spring. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Peppermint (*Mentha piperita*). Grows near slow or standing water, often in roadside ditches. Minty scent adds zest to a garden. Flowers are bunchy and spiky and the leaves have a peppery taste. Good idea for the small pond or sluggish drain. Grows anywhere, in moisture, 18 to 30 inches high, and sometimes found with Spearmint. Came from Europe with the early settlers. Most of us know it or have it, and we list it for those who may need it. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

Phlox, Wild Blue (*Phlox divaricata*). Blooms in April and May, with fragrant, lavender flowers, blue with a hint of purple, sometimes violet or lilac. Grows from 9 to 15 inches high, choosing moist, open woodlands. Graceful; takes kindly to rockeries. Tolerates average soil and exposure, and summer drouth. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Phlox, Pink (*Phlox ovata*). The clear rose pink of the flower, on stalks 4 to 7 inches high, has an arresting

HOME, PENNSYLVANIA

quality in mass. Blooms chiefly in May. Light hard-wood shade, or full sunlight. An evergreen, creeping, ground cover. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Phlox, Sweet William (*Phlox maculata*). Wild Sweet William Phlox has richly pink flowers in a long cluster. It is found on stream banks, in open sunshine. It requires soil that is constantly moist. Blooming in meadow grass, it catches the eye for half a mile. It also flourishes in moist, rich, open woods. Flowers from mid-June to late August. Several blooming stalks from a single root. 1 to 2 feet high. 45c each; \$4.50 for 12.

Rattlesnake Plantain (*Epipactis pubescens*; *Goodyera pubescens*). An Orchid with little leaves in a low cluster, dark olive green with white veins, resembling rattlesnake skin, makes this plantain an odd and striking feature for a dry and shady spot. Stout, woolly stem, 4 to 6 inches high, bears a plume of tiny, white, sac-like blossoms, in July and August. Evergreen, it likes coniferous woods in nature. Adapts to indoor use, potted or dished in wet moss and leaf mold. Colonizes in clumps of a dozen little rattlesnakes around the parent plant. Indians firmly believed that the leaves cured snake-bite — the old "signature" idea of herbs antidoting the things they resemble. 40c each; \$4.00 for 12.

Saxifrage, Early; Virginia Saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginiana*). The very name, meaning "Rock-Breaker," suggests the favored habitat, in rocky crevices, giving the illusion of having split the stones apart. Especially suited to the rock garden. Saxifrage grows almost anywhere, in full sunshine or light shade, in dry or rocky woodland, hugging banks and ledges. Small, clustered white flowers rise 3 to 6 inches above the flattened rosette of basal leaves, which seem to cling to shaly steeps. Quite early, blooming mainly in April, seeding freely. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Shinleaf (*Pyrola elliptica*). The "Shin-plaster" plant so named because of early English peasant use of its leaves on bruises (any plaster was a shin plaster), is a very fragrant, bell-like flower, nodding in a vertical cluster at the top of a stem 4 to 6 inches high, suggesting lilies of the valley. Leaves are dark, olive-green, elliptical, compared by the Romans with pear leaves, whence the name Pyrola. Likes the company of Pipsissewa and Spotted Wintergreen, its Chimaphila cousins of the Heath Family, with very similar long roots extending in summer to form next year's bud. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Shooting Star; American Cowslip (*Dodecatheon meadia*). Like a miniature burst of fireworks, the rose-pink, dart-shaped blossoms point downward in a group at the top of a slender stalk, 8 to 15 inches high, thrusting up from low root foliage. Blooms in May and early June. Good for the hardy border, grows anywhere, but more beautiful when planted in conditions resembling moist hillsides, cliff and open woods. Can be propagated better and faster from root-cuttings than from seed. The Greek name means "twelve gods," and it is so striking that it has acquired nicknames like Indian Chief, Roosterhead, Johnny-Jump-Up and Pride of Ohio. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

WAKE ROBIN FARM

Skull Cap (*Scutellaria serrata*). Hardy, 1 to 2 feet tall, guarded at the top by a cluster of flowers like little gargoyle or snapdragons, blue in the face with fierce little open mouths. Showiest of the dozen members of this genus of the Labiate (lipped) or Mint Family, and distinguished by its long corolla (petals) and lips of equal length. Blooms in June and July. Easily multiplied from seed. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

Snakeroot, Black; Black Cohosh; Bugbane (*Cimicifuga racemosa*). Spreading, slender growth, 2 to 4 feet tall. Flowers are thick on fuzzy, feathery, wand-like racemes, and are followed by purplish fruit berries. Latin and English genus names derive from the belief that the plant repels insects (cimex: bug; fugare: to chase) and is thus a bane to all little bugs. This leaves fertilization to the green flesh flies, familiars of our boyhood days in the woods. Good for snake bite, the Indians used to say. Blossoms in July and August. Likes moist soil, not too wet; prefers shade but tolerates the sunshine of clearings. Increased by dividing the woody roots. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Snakeroot, White (*Eupatorium urticæfolium*). Member of the large *Eupatorium* genus of the Composite Family, with the deep green leaves in open branching effect, and bouquets of downy, clear white flowers at top and ends of branches. Comes from rich woods and groves; fits well in a copse or shady nook in the yard. Height, 1 to 3 feet. Blooms in late summer (August). Soft blossoms resemble the domestic or garden perennial *Ageratum*, whence the alternate name *E. Ageratoides*. Friend of its close relative, *Boneset*. Slender, well branched and poised. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Solomon's Seal, False; Solomon's Plume; False Spikenard (*Smilacina racemosa*). The fluffy white flower plume is pyramidal, terminating the zig-zag stem which gracefully inclines, growing 12 to 18 inches long. The seal idea comes from the root scars from which previous stalks have died away. Intimate companion of the True Solomon's Seal, roots often intermingled, which is natural to these cousins in the Lily Family. One of the most responsive plants to try, in sun or partial shade. Blooms in May and June, followed by dark ruby red berries. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Solomon's Seal; True Solomon's Seal; Small Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*). Little greenish yellow, bell-like flowers hang in a row of pairs under the arching stalks, a novel and happy arrangement. Blooms May into June. The stalk is from 1 to 2 feet long, carrying into autumn a string of round steely blue berries, themselves quite conspicuous and even more compelling than the flowers. The popular name relates to the row of scars on the zig-zag rootstalks, each scar making the attachment of a previous year's stalk, one year forming a zig, the next a zag. Yields to cultivation, often with doubled flowers, in slightly moist or even dryish soil, in thickets, under trees, or in the rockery. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Spearmint (*Mentha spicata*). A well known, fragrant herb, with spicy, minty leaves. It has a flower, plumy

HOME, PENNSYLVANIA

and pale purple, which flourishes at the expense of the more fragrant foliage. Moist ground, ditches and roadsides are its favorite haunts. Once started in the garden, it spreads rapidly. Cuttings can be dried for winter use. The fresh leaves are nice to nibble while reflecting upon important impractical things and of course everybody likes mint sauce with mutton. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*). Sensitive and delicate, this shy flower, with its blush of rosy pink, is one of Spring's earliest signs, appearing even in March, and lasting into May. It seeks protection under larger plants, although it needs light to keep its petals open. It shrinks and wilts on plucking, which ought to be a warning to well-meaning vandals. Good for massing in the rockery, with moisture and partial shade. The bulb is a bean-sized, lentil-shaped pellet, of dun earth color, sending up a stalk of exquisite fragility. Spring Beauty responds well to cultivation even in wide open gardens, and increases rapidly. Its allure for scores of insect species is compliment enough, and its visitors and stamen structure combine to assure cross-fertilization. **25c each; \$2.50 for 12.**

Strawberry, Wild (*Fragaria virginiana*). Main species of the *Fragaria* (fragrant) genus of the *Potentilla* tribe of the great Rose Family, these are real strawberries, good to eat, after enjoying from April to June the pure white, five-petalled flowers with their golden hearts. These are the very same strawberries on the hill which kissed the red lips, made redder still, of Whittier's Barefoot Boy. On the hill indeed they grow around here, in rough, open fields. They will give a wild and useful touch to a neglected sunny corner of the yard. Spreads like the garden strawberry by rooting runners. **25c each; \$2.50 for 12.**

Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*). Roadside plant, blooming July to September, 2 to 3 feet tall, surmounted by tight little yellow clusters resembling the eye of a daisy. Found in old-fashioned gardens of tumbledown houses, escaping over the fence to stray down the road. "Tansy tea" and "tansy wine" are familiar to the oldsters. It has flavored Lenten cakes, connecting with the ancient Greek connotation of immortality. Old as the hills, Tansy bears lightly the burden of being dubbed a common weed, but is a cheerful, homey flower under any name. Demands little if any attention, and we have seen many a barren spot which would be better for its optimistic presence. We like the smell of Tansy! **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Trillium, Painted (*Trillium undulatum*). Crimson stripes, painted within the white petals of this smaller trillium delicacy, give it a peppermint candy look. Blooms in May and June at 6 to 12 inches in height, and brightens searing September with intensely scarlet berries. Cool, damp corners are preferred and low sandy spots with shade are useful. The three leaves under the blossoms are more sharply pointed than those of other trilliums, and the petals have distinctively wavy edges. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

WAKE ROBIN FARM

Trillium, White; Large-Flowering Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*). Waxy white flowers, superbly showy when grouped in shady woodland glades, bloom in April and May, later turn pink, and are followed by red berries. White Trillium requires little attention if planted amongst garden shrubbery or under hardwood trees. Soil average, or at least not too acid, and moist but well drained. White Trillium rejoices in plenty of leaf mold, which seems, among other qualities, to hold moisture constantly in moderation. This is one of the Trillium genus of the Parideæ tribe of the Lily Family. Requires several years, estimated at 5 to 7, to reach blooming age for seed. It appreciates attention during its childhood. It likes when possible to be in sight and sound of a babbling brook. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Turtle Head (*Chelone glabra*). Really a bog plant, but one which roots as close to water as possible without wetting its feet. Versatile, it survives in less watery places. The globular flower, tinted rose, has a startling likeness to a turtle's head (*Chelone*), and a bald (*glabrous*) one at that. The flowers bloom successively, up a dense terminal spike, from July to September, in a cluster rather large for the slender, two-foot stalk. The plant increases by root division. A small start can be spread in a few seasons over extensive brookside or bog border. Similar in habit to the Monkey Flower, a Figwort Family connection. **35c each; \$3.50 for 12.**

Vervain, Blue; Simpler's Joy (*Verbena hastata*). Kittenish about wet feet, Vervain is still a plant of bog and ditch, seeking hummocks, islands and banks of marsh and stream. Perhaps most familiar at roadsides, where drainage wets the berm. Height from 3 to 5 feet, with many flower spikes curving like the arms of a candelabrum. The flowers are purple or violet, never blue, as the name denotes, and they bloom progressively up the stems from July to September. Vervain has been sacred to Druids, Romans and other peoples, ancient and modern, as fetish or talisman, to invoke blessing and avert disaster. The English name, "Simpler's Joy," grew out of the ready sale at good price of Vervain by venders of medicinal "simples" or herbs. Decorative, the plant is easily established, requires little attention, and grows in full sun or partial shade, over a wide range of climate. **35c each; \$3.50 for 12.**

Violet, Blue (*Viola papilionacea*). This is the violet everyone knows. It typifies violets of every kind. It unites the main qualities of the Violet Family. It has unsurpassed beauty. It is found in unlimited quantity. It permits unrestricted plucking. It has unrivalled scent. It is unknown almost nowhere. It has an intricate mechanism for cross-pollination in the blossoms, and self-fertilizing buds at the base of the stem. It yields perfume; has been cooked and eaten; and has been recommended as a remedy for skin diseases (e. g., eczema). The blossoms are often more abundant than the leaves, and are truly violet in color, verging into purple hues. Leaves are deep green and heart-shaped. Spreads lustily in clumps and masses, 3 to 6 inches high, in shade or sun, in groves, orchards and moist meadows. It grows lushly around dwellings, as if responding to the widespread human appreciation. Emb-

HOME, PENNSYLVANIA

lem of the Bonapartes, favorite of Mohammed, the popularity of the Blue Violet is ancient and general. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Violet, Dog (*Viola conspersa*). Chunky little plant, forming a compact bouquet of heart-shaped leaves, with an abundance of pale blue flowers. The flowers, too, are little, rising just above the leaves, to heights of three—and even five—inches. Chooses rather shady woods, and flowers in April and May. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Violet, Downy Yellow (*Viola pubescens*). The underside of the leaf is the downy feature to which both English and Latin names refer. The plant is rather tall and sparse, from 6 to 12 inches high. The flowers are light golden yellow, and bloom singly on thin stems from the forks of paired leaf stalks. They bloom in April and May. This violet is found in rich woods, dense thickets, under maples, and along old stone walls and roadsides. It tolerates dry places in shade. **35c each; \$3.50 for 12.**

Violet, Smooth Yellow (*Viola scabriuscula*). Bright golden flowers, briefly resembling the Downy Yellow, but with stems and leaves distinctively smooth. The whole rangey plant, of several stems, will be some 4 to 7 inches high. A rather early bloomer, fond of moisture, woods and thickets, but tolerates at need both dry and heavy soil. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Violet, Spurred; Long-Spurred Violet (*Viola rostrata*). Oddity and delicacy are the prime qualities of the Spurred Violet. The oddity is the spur, and the delicacy, the lilac of the petals. Rostrata means beaked, referring to rostrum or tip of a sailing ship's prow, and applied freely to the rostra (now rostrum) or stage of the Roman theatre, bedecked with the beaks of captured ships. The flowers are multiple from the same roots, their stems rising from forked leaf stalks. Flowers reach 4 to 8 inches in height, above the leaves, reclining as they mature, and with the small, dark green



WAKE ROBIN FARM

leaves, present a loose bouquet effect. The centers of the flowers are purple veined with orange pollen. The spur, beak or rostrum is slender, and a quarter-inch to a possible half-inch long. To ensure reproduction, self-fertilizing little buds appear later at the branching of the upper leaves. Authorities ascribe occurrence from Quebec to Michigan and south to Georgia. Few authorities describe the Spurred Violet, and we wonder just how plentiful it may be. Rather precious in these parts and we have no record of dealer listing. **35c each; \$3.50 for 12.**

Violet, Sweet White (*Viola blanda*). Small plant, with tiny white flowers, purple veined. Scent is uniformly sweet, elusive, and potent in mass. Blooms in April and May. Robust, prolific ground cover, fast spreading by seeds and runners. Best in swamps, bogs, wet meadows, moist woodlands, and low, damp, shady places. Often found in dry soil, and improves with cultivation. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Violet, White; Striped Violet (*Viola striata*). Big violet, 6 to 12 inches high when in flower, evergreen, with many large blossoms, white, off-white and cream colored, on very long stalks. The side petals are densely bearded and the wide lower petal is thickly striped with purple veins. The plant grows lavishly in large crowns, liking low shaded places, but it blooms in the hot sun, in baking backyards and sits happily under the apple tree. In difficult conditions it grows at some cost to size and length of leaves, but at no loss to its very prolific blossoms. The white mantle of bloom abounds through April and May, tapering off well into June. Flower structure prevents self-fertilization; it is cross-pollinated by little bees. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Wake Robin (*Trillium erectum*). The Wake Robin or Red Trillium has claimed this Farm for its very own. The Farm was named in its honor. It abounds on a steep wooded hillside by a little stream. It flowers on a reclining stem, 7 to 15 inches high. Maroon is the dominant color, with slightly darker and lighter variations. Blooms April to June, after which the three leaves grow large to make food for root storage. If flower and leaves are plucked, blooming may skip the next year or the root may die for lack of nourishment. Red berries in autumn. This Trillium is supposed to wake up the robins in the spring, but around here it is days and days late, ruddy with confusion. Like other members of the Trillium Genus of the Lily Family, Wake Robin is called Trillium because it is distinctively triple in all its parts—3 leaves, 3 sepals, 3 petals, 3 styles, 3-celled ovary, twice three stamens, and 3 broadly ovate leaves. Wake Robin's special friends include Maidenhair Fern, Bloodroot and Wild Ginger. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Water Lily, White; Sweet-Scented Water Lily (*Castalia odorata*). Queen of the pool. Wherever still or sluggish water can be found, these clean white flowers will rest upon their wide floating leaves in perfect contentment. They open their petals in the morning and, keeping hours all their own, close around noon for the day. The flowers are white, sometimes creamy white, 3 to 5 inches across, with petals which seem to merge

HOME, PENNSYLVANIA

into the central stamens. True to name, they are very sweetly scented. They belong to the small select Nymphaea Family, nympha meaning "bride." The black root, big and clubby, placed at the bottom of fish pond or sunken wash tub, is uncommonly vigorous and winter resistant, sending persistent stems to the surface when the ice melts in the spring. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

Wintergreen, Aromatic; Checkerberry; Teaberry; Boxberry; Mountain Tea (*Gaultheria procumbens*). Evergreen ground cover, spreading by creeping roots. Once established, the ground becomes matted with a wealth of fleshy, shiny, dark green leaves; of nodding little waxy white flowers in July and August; and later of deeply cherry-red berries. The berries are extremely aromatic, feed the hungry winter birds, and tend to cling through winter, releasing their seeds in spring for additional propagation. This compiler as a boy nibbled the leaves in open pastures, along railroad-embankments and such, knowing it only as Mountain Tea. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Ferns



Beech Fern, Broad (*Phegopteris hexagonopetala*). Striking feature is the breadth of the triangular frond, 4 to 6 inches, especially attractive in quantity. New plantings develop the massed effect by extensive branching and creeping of the wiry roots, just beneath the surface. This fern likes deep shade, with dry, neutral soil. 25c each; \$2.50 for 12.

Bracken (*Pteridium latiusculum*). The soft-green frond spreads, hand-like, at the top of a stout stalk, 1 to 3 feet high. Grows luxuriantly, sending up the showy fronds all summer. Found in thickets, on hillsides, in moderately acid soil; also in sterile, sandy, dry soil, in shade or sunlight. Roots are deep and wide creeping, about the size of a pencil, with tough cord and brittle casing. The root starch appeals to swine, whence a popular name, "Hog Brake." The plant has provided many human uses, too, such as thatch, stable bedding, and material for packing and basket weaving. Young fronds and roasted rootstalks have been eaten and the starch has been extracted. "Burning the Bracken" was an English custom to bring rain and drive witches away. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

Brittle Fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*). A small but prolific fern, producing fronds all summer. Fronds are 4 to 12 inches long. It owes its name to the brittleness of its main stems. Rootstalk has many rootlets, which creep into crevices, delighting in a shaded rockery. Should be planted with the crown just even with the surface. It is satisfied with average summer rain, tends to shrivel in drought, but recovers with new fronds when it gets another drink. Best soil condition is called circum-

WAKE ROBIN FARM

neutral. The earliest fern of all, coming up with the spring flowers. The fresh fronds are slender, finely cut, and a bright emerald green. **25c each; \$2.50 for 12.**

Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*). Shining, dark green fronds, 5 to 20 inches long, with ladder-like pinnæ, or leaflets. The pinnæ are half-dagger-shaped, with a spur on one side near the stem. It is called "Dagger Fern" by the florist trade. It is so popular for Christmas and cut-flower use that extermination is threatened. Favors rocky woods, deep soil, ample shade and good watering. Crowns should be planted even with the surface of the ground. **35c each; \$3.50 for 12.**

Common Woodfern; Evergreen Lace Fern (*Thelypteris intermedia*). This is the "Fancy Fern" of the florist trade. It is valued for the keeping qualities of its evergreen fronds and in some states it is cut for market in huge quantities. Prized for decoration because of the finely cut, crowded leaflets of the fronds, giving such a lacey effect that "Evergreen Lace Fern" has been proposed as a better name. Moist, shady slopes provide the best habitat. The root is short and stout, with crown above the surface. **35c each; \$3.50 for 12.**

Hay - Scented Fern (*Dennstedtia punctilobula*). This feathery, light green fern, reaches a height of about 2 feet, spreading vigorously by runners. Easily cultivated, mixes well with other ferns and grows sturdily in rocky uplands. Indifferent to soil, moisture and exposure, and forms dense clumps. The fronds may be cut freely for decoration, giving exquisite lacey effects. Useful in places where few other plants survive, and of course a natural for the rockery. **30c each; \$3.00 for 12.**

Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*). A favorite fern for outdoor cultivation and most suitable for porch and foundation planting. Superbly graceful in bearing and individual in symmetrical form. At its best when allowed space for the outer, sterile fronds to arch away. Gets its name from the interruption by the small spore bearing pinnæ or leaflets at the middle of the erect, central, fertile fronds. These pinnæ, after fruiting, turn from dark green to brown and shrivel down, breaking continuity of the frond outline. The outer fronds are light green, with a bluish overtone. Height about 3 feet. Growing conditions widely varied, with trends toward rocky banks, thin shale, rich soil or hilly woods, under trees, in hollows and ravines, and in fields dotted with thickets. Survives in moderately moist ground, likes to look at water and live near swamps and ponds, but it will not tolerate soaking wet feet. The roots become thickened and clubby, as each new crown adds to its length. Crowns planted about even with the ground surface. **40c each; \$4.00 for 12.**

Leather Woodfern; Evergreen Woodfern; Marginal Woodfern (*Thelypteris marginalis*; formerly *Dryopteris marginalis* and *Aspidium marginale*). It is leathery; it is evergreen; it has fat, round fruit dots close to the margins of the frond pinnules; all of which accounts for the names collected by this handsome thing. It has also been called Marginal Shield Fern. Leathery

HOME, PENNSYLVANIA

texture is the chief popular mark of identity; the dark blue-green of the evergreen fronds keeps year-round living color in a group of mixed ferns. Two main culture requirements are deep shade and plenty of loose stones in the soil. Rich, rocky woods; rock slopes; under shady cliffs; between buttressed roots of big trees; in clefts and recesses of moist hillsides. Grows to about 2 feet and shows off well with Hepaticas, Trilliums, Jacks and Lady's Slippers, especially if massed under tall coniferous trees. Large chaffy crown bulges an inch or two above ground, unfolding symmetrical fronds with shaggy stalks. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*). Unlike any other fern, the American Maidenhair is distinguished by tressy softness of the spreading frond at the top of very slender, polished, mahogany stem. Difficult to describe with precision; authorities resort to "delicate and dainty form and texture; singular and conspicuous grace." Found in slight hollows of moist, rich, hilly woods, under non-acid deciduous trees, as maples, birches, and beeches, not oaks or conifers. Should be planted near the house with an eye to its needs, including shallow planting (1 inch of soil), ample shade, and constant mulch of proper leaf mold and its own fronds. The black roots are wiry and creeping, often at the very surface of the soil, protected by rotting leaves. Roots produce fresh fronds continuously, which grow from 1 to 1½ feet high. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

New York Fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*). So different, with its plump fronds, tapering below, like no other fern, with gradually vanishing pinnæ, the distinctive name "Taper Fern" has been proposed. Medium size, 8 to 15 inches high, found in dry, cool, shaded woods. A fast spreading ground cover, with slender roots creeping just below the surface. Roots give off tufted fronds at frequent intervals, adding up to a scattered mass of yellow-green. In two or three years a half-dozen plants make a large colony. New York Fern appreciates mulch from leaves of deciduous trees, like beeches, birches and maples. 30c each; \$3.00 for 12.

Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrychium virginianum*). Totally unlike the true ferns, this member of the Adder's Tongue Family is a fern ally. The succulent frond rises from a fleshy root, spreading in a horizontal triangle of leaves. The main stem continues in a fruiting stalk, which carries spore cases in a terminal cluster, well above the sterile, horizontal leaves. Height is from 4 to 10 inches. Grows in many conditions; is best planted deeply in rich moist mold, preferably in dense deciduous woods, and in groups. The large, triangular, finely cut green blades are unique. 25c each; \$2.50 for 12.

Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*). A sturdy fern of low thickets and moist, open places, with sterile fronds of vivid, yellowish green, and with deeply cut, finger-like divisions, which give an exaggerated oak leaf shape. The fruiting frond is erect, hard, and thickened with plump, tight lobes, which turn brown after fruiting, and survive the winter. From 8 to 16 inches high, the

WAKE ROBIN FARM

fronds form continuously all summer. The root creeps and branches in all directions. The Sensitive Fern is a lush counterfoil to its more fluffy fern relatives, good for grouping with denizens of the wild wet places. 35c each; \$3.50 for 12.

Spleenwort, Ebony (*Asplenium platyneuron*). Pert, smart, sprightly, this little fern, 4 to 8 inches long, with its rigid fertile fronds, and evergreen sterile fronds, adds jauntiness to the rock gardens. Adaptable to any situation, it chooses, when it may, the vicinity of large boulders, and seeks stony or shaly ground, however poor, in full sun, in partial or deep shade. May be planted in thin layers of dirt on little cliffs and rocky outcrops, the upper edges of gravel banks, and road berm. On the other hand, it welcomes good feeding, strays into shady woods, and luxuriates in black leaf mold anywhere, especially if there is a stony or shaly admixture. It seems to be a fern of complete versatility. The good root system and the soft little crowns should be firmly planted at ground level. The "Ebony" part of the name applies to the stems of the fronds, a dark and glossy brown. 25c each; \$2.50 for 12.

Spleenwort, Silvery (*Athyrium acrostichoides*). When the wind blows the fronds of this fern, we see the reason for its name. The backs of the fertile fronds have a silvery sheen. This is caused by the abundance of shining white fruit dots, which are really more like dashes, along each side of the mid-veins of the pinnae. Grows to about two feet. Likes any moist, shaded place, and is indifferent to acidity. The root is thick, creeping horizontally, near the surface, and should not be covered with more than an inch of soil. 40c each; \$4.00 for 12.



Wake Robin Farm

James Loder Park, Manager

Home, Pennsylvania

This Farm is an enterprise devoted primarily to sharing with others the pleasure we find in conserving and propagating the wildlings of field and forest.



Good Gardening!